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ABSTRACT

This study was based on an earlier 1972-73 study (see SP 009 113) which led to organizational restructuring of Windsor minor hockey (WMH). It was felt that further studies comparing attitudes and beliefs with behavior would be beneficial. Of particular interest were: (a) whether or not attitudes and beliefs changed due to adjusted organization and administration; (b) what the effect was on technical skill, physical development, and motor learning of children and youth involved in WMH--particularly those in no scoring, no standing leagues; and (c) what the attitudes, beliefs, and behavior were of coaches and parents involved in leagues with standing and playoffs. Evaluation consisted of interviews, written questionnaires, and category sorting of slogans by managers and coaches. Variables observed in the study included performance on a skills test and a cardiovascular test, maximum ice utilization, and behavior. A generalized summary indicated that there was overwhelming support for emphasis, within the hockey program, on socialization, fun, equal treatment on ice, and other variables generally associated with amateur sport and recreational play. It was also noted that no scoring, no standing leagues did result in reduced aggression and violence. Differences in behavior between participants in WMH and other amateur hockey associations were attributed to changes in organizational structure. Recommendations were provided to WMH, including the expansion of no scoring and no standing leagues to all levels. (PB)

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ONTARIO RECREATION AND LEISURE RESEARCH SURVEY FORM

(Please use a separate form for each project)

NAME: Dr. Dick Moriarty & Dr. James Duthie DIVISION: Faculty of Physical and Health Education

AGENCY/UNIVERSITY: University of Windsor

ADDRESS: Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Change Agent Research for Windsor Minor Hockey

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Dick Moriarty & Dr. James Duthie

OTHER PROJECT STAFF: Dr. Ray Hermiston, Prof. Mike Sharratt, Dr. Gordon Olafson.....

SPONSORING AGENCY: Windsor Minor Hockey and Faculty of Physical and Health Education (Sports Institute for Research through Change Agent Research (CAR

ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE: May 1, 1974
(If complete please indicate)

Please submit a brief (200-300 word) abstract concerning the project indicating (where applicable), problem, purpose, methodology and content limitations. Please indicate from two to five subject term descriptors you would assign to the content area of the study. If you wish, attach pertinent sections of the project proposal. If completed, please attach a report or indicate where published. Please return to Dr. F. W. Martin, ORCL Information Project, Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.

This project was conducted jointly by Windsor Minor Hockey (WMH) and the University of Windsor Faculty of Physical & Health Education Sports Institute for Research through Change Agent Research (SIR/CAR). The study was built on a study conducted in 1972-73 which led to major behavioural changes as a result of organizational restructuring such as:

1. expansion of the no scoring, no standing leagues to the age of 12
2. division of all age levels into Beaver, Pioneer and Travel (based substantially on skills level)
3 continuing cooperative study between WMH and SIR/CAR into the effect of de-emphasis of importance of winning in terms of enjoyment by players and development of skills level.

The results of the 1972-73 study were widely reported in Time Magazine, Sports Illustrated, Peter Gzowskishow, BC conference on youth sports, as well as a number of professional meetings such as CAHPER, OPHEA, etc.

During the 1973-74 season, Windsor Minor Hockey commissioned SIR/CAR to continue study. Monitoring was done throughout the year and in addition 2 "major happenings" were observed in order to field test the sport or athletic phenomenon in Windsor Minor Hockey (1) Windsor Minor Hockey Festival on Saturday, February 9 when 300 players and 150 coaches and parents were tested & (2) observation of behaviour of Beaver and Pioneer teams in the Windsor Minor Hockey Day of Champions on Sunday, March 17. The results are listed below under the IDEA system.
IDEA = Identification, Delineation, Evaluation, and Action.

Identification - the felt need for the current study was expressed by Windsor Minor Hockey and the specific problems or questions were:

1) Did attitudes and beliefs (particularly parents and players) change due to adjusted organization and administration in WMH.

(over)

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Other project staff, cont'd: Faculty of Physical & Health Education students in Violence and Conflict in Sport or Athletics course 459c and postgraduate courses in organization and administration, and sociology of sport

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Abstract, cont'd

2. The effect on technical skill and physical development and motor learning of children and youth involved in Windsor Minor Hockey (particularly, no scoring no standing leagues)
3. The attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of youth coaches and parents involved in Travel, Pioneer and Beaver leagues involving standing and playoffs.

Delineation - the study and research during the current year was based on the Change Agent Research design implementing the 3M model. Emphasis was placed on comparing the correlation between avowed and actual goals of the organization (ie, attitudes and beliefs as compared with behaviour).

Evaluation - the sample for the 1973-74 Windsor Minor Hockey study consisted of 20 audio interviews with parents, coaches and players in Travel, Pioneer and Beaver leagues with standings and playoffs; 80 telephone interviews with parents; structured audio interviews with 50 parents, coaches and conveners; 20 own category sorting of slogans by managers and coaches; and written questionnaires with over 500 players and 300 parents. The variables observed in the Windsor Minor Hockey study included skills test (Dr. Ray Hermiston), cardiovascular test (Prof. Mike Sharratt), maximum ice utilization involving two or three teams (Mr. Bob Fox-Kent County Board) and game behaviour (Drs. Dick Moriarty, James Duthie and Gord Olafson).

Data was analyzed by SIR/CAR in cooperation with the University of Windsor Computer Centre and Media Centre. Parametric analysis (SAS and SPSS) was employed in analyzing written questionnaires, while the nonparametric Mann Whitney U test was employed in analyzing data from interviews and behaviour observed at games.

A generalized summary would indicate that there was overwhelming support within WMH for an emphasis within the hockey program of socialization, fun, equal treatment on ice and, in general, variables which are associated with true amateur sport and recreational play. Excellence finished a poor third in both written and audio interviews. Personal observation, and TV and slide analysis substantiated the results of the 1972-72 study indicating that no scoring, no standing leagues do result in reduction in aggression and violence, no significant difference in terms of gladness but less sadness when compared with standing leagues. In addition, analysis indicates that there is a progression in aggression hostile outbursts and violence when one progresses from no standing and no scoring leagues through Beaver, Pioneer and Travel teams.

These results were substantiated vividly by audiovisual presentations

1. Day of Champions by Don Swanson
2. Sawyer Slide Presentation on Windsor Minor Hockey Festival
3. Aggression and Violence in the Industrial and Junior Hockey Leagues by Paul Tesar and Don Maedel
4. Summary of Audiovisual Interviews by Betty Colborne and Judy Stapleton

cont'd on p.3

The results of all of these findings are further heightened by significant increase in aggression and violence in hockey outside of Windsor as reflected by frequent stories in the public press, radio and TV and by the 101 letters received by SIR/CAR from concerned youth sports organizations.

Since almost all amateur sports hockey associations in Canada (and indeed in North America) avow the goals which are expressed in the Constitution and by the memberships of WMH; but these goals are not manifest by the behaviour of the overwhelming majority of sports hockey organizations outside of WMH, the difference in behaviour should be attributed not to philosophy but rather changes in organizational structure which have been made by WMH, such as the no scoring, no standing leagues.

Recommendations to WMH for the 1974-75 season included:

1. continuation of the no scoring, no standing leagues in the three tier division of pioneer, beaver and all star.
2. continued monitoring of psychological, physiological and social changes in WMH.
3. repetition of WMH hockey festival on the corresponding date in 1975 in order to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of WMH structure on skill and psychological development of the players as well as changes in attitudes, beliefs and motivations.
4. increase the number of teams utilizing ice during practice in order to increase the efficiency and reduce thecost to participants and parents.
5. enhance the image of referees and improve cooperation between WMH and the Windsor Referees' Association.
6. utilize mass media (radio and TV) in order to educate the public to the goals and behaviour of true amateur sport
7. WMH, OMHA and SIR/CAR might conduct a clinic on aggression and violence in hockey and/or produce a manual dealing with policies and procedures which will reduce probability of aggression and violence in youth hockey.